

"The most important part of any successful community is strong community participation."

The mission of the Coastal Bryan Tree Foundation is to plant, promote, and protect trees, especially live oaks, the Georgia State Tree. The Foundation values tree canopy as an essential element in the quality and unique character of life on the coast. They recognize trees as economic, esthetic, and ecological assets for today and as a legacy for future generations. The Coastal Bryan Tree Foundation shares the vision of working with the community to create a legacy of trees in south Bryan County. The Coastal Bryan Tree Foundation began in 2001 as a volunteer outreach of the Richmond Hill-Bryan County Chamber of Commerce. Today, the Foundation is a non-profit (501(c) 3) environmental education organization with a focus on restoring canopy shade trees to our community. Another main goal is, not only to raise money for the cause,

but also to increase awareness. Wendy Bolton, president of the Coastal Bryan Tree Foundation believes that raising awareness will lead to more volunteers, and the organization can't grow without volunteers to help us plant and maintain trees. They are supported by contributions from individuals, other non-profits, members of the business community, and by grants from foundations and government sources. Coastal Bryan Tree Foundation volunteers have planted and cared for 250 live oak trees in Richmond Hill. Thanks to recent rains, the 250 live oaks (total planted in Bryan County to date) are growing and thriving in the community. Volunteers take time on weekends to water the trees and adjust the "tree gators." It's a labor of love that takes a lot of time. Visit them online at

www.coastalbryantreefoundation.org

Recent Headlines

Saturday, February 20, 2005: More than 50 community volunteers turned out to help plant 30 Live Oaks in Richmond Hill for the Coastal Bryan Tree Foundation Annual Winter Planting Day. Local businesses and the city provided backhoes to help dig holes to plant 30 3" diameter Live Oaks. Richmond Hill High School students worked to plant 20 trees on school property. The Boy Scouts helped as they worked on a related merit badge project.

Saturday, February 18, 2006: Coastal Bryan Tree Foundation planted 50 trees for Georgia Arbor Day. Volunteers gathered at 8 a.m. and began planting along Highway 144 as well as along Harris Trail. The trees were container-grown oaks that were planted at pre-determined locations along the road right-of-way.

Saturday, April 22, 2006: The Coastal Bryan Tree Foundation's second annual Root Ball was a huge success. The gala event took place, on April 22, Earth Day. Last year, the foundation received \$23,000 in contributions from the First Annual Root Ball. Proceeds from this year's event help further the cause of the non-profit organization whose motto is "working with the community to create a legacy of trees."

Thursday, June 8, 2006: Coastal Bryan Tree Foundation has done it again. They have donated 50 more trees to the city's tree canopy. The tree foundation generously donated and planted 50 live oaks in the Richmond Hill city parks. Forty trees were planted in the Piercefield Park, located off Harris Trail and the ten remaining trees will be planted in other local community parks. The trees were a contribution by Perry Russell the owner of Just Oaks in Blitchton, Georgia. This brings the grand total of trees planted by this local non-profit organization to 250 live oaks planted in our community.

Question & Answer

Question: How many acres of trees are planted annually in the United States?

Answer: Tree planting on all ownerships total approximately 2.6 million acres annually. This annual planting roughly equals the size of the State of Connecticut. Compare this annual planting to 2.3 million acres of trees planted under the ten year Civilian Conservation Corps tree planting program (mid-1930's to mid-1940's) and to 2.2 million acres under the entire Soil Bank Program (1956 to 1961).

Question: How many trees are grown in U.S. nurseries each year?

Answer: Approximately 1.6 billion trees are produced and shipped by forest tree nurseries annually. Forest product nurseries produce 852 million trees, private nurseries produce 366 million trees, state nurseries produce 348 million trees, and federal nurseries produce 38 million trees.

Update:

A local tree ordinance, which is a major focus of the Coastal Bryan Tree Foundation, is being proposed to Richmond Hill, that would establish a mandated amount of canopied trees by either saving existing trees or planting new trees to meet the requirement. The foundation is currently trying to bring this policy into effect concurrently for Richmond Hill, Bryan County and Pembroke.

Q & A continued

Question: What state produces the most nursery seedlings?

Answer: Georgia’s tree nurseries produce over 250 million trees each year and grow the most seedlings. Nearly 79% of all tree production in the United States occurs in the South. Western nurseries produce 17% and Northern nurseries produce 4% of total U.S. tree production.

Georgia State Tree

Live oak is the southern symbol of strength.

Live oak is a fast-growing tree. Sweet edible acorns are usually produced in great abundance and are of value to many birds and mammals including wild turkeys, wood ducks, jays, quail, whitetail deer, raccoons, and squirrels.

The yellowish-brown wood is hard, heavy, tough, strong, and is used for structural beams, shipbuilding, posts, and in places requiring strength and durability. The trees have been historically planted in cities. When planting live oak, it should be restricted to large yards or parks where the spreading form can be accommodated.

Live oak ranks as one of the heaviest native hardwoods, weighing 55 pounds per cubic foot when air dry. This weight or density makes live oak a good fuel wood although it can be very difficult to split.

Leaf:
Alternate, simple, evergreen, leathery, 2 to 5 inches long, oblong or elliptical in shape with an entire or spiny and revolute margin. The upper surface is lustrous and the lower is pale and pubescent.

Flower:
Staminate flowers borne on catkins. Pistillate flowers borne on spikes. Appearing March through May.

Summary	Plant Needs
<i>Foliage:</i> Evergreen broad	<i>Zone:</i> 7 to 10
<i>leaf Height:</i> 30 to 40 feet	<i>Light:</i> Partial shade to full sun
<i>Spread:</i> 40 to 60 feet	<i>Moisture:</i> Wet to moist
<i>Shape:</i> Spreading	<i>Soil Type:</i> Sandy, loam, or clay
	<i>pH Range:</i> 3.7 to 7.0

Fruit:
Acorns are in clusters of 3 to 5, maturing in one season. The nut is dark in color, 3/4 inch long and covered 1/3 by the cap. The cap is bowl-shaped and warty, termed “turbinate” by Harlow et al. Maturing in September of the first year.

Bark:
Rapidly developing red-brown furrows with small surface scales. Later, becoming black and very blocky.

Form:
A medium-sized tree that can grow to massive proportions. Open-grown trees develop a huge rounded crown. The largest crowns may be 150 feet across. A massive shade tree with evergreen foliage that is bright olive-green when new and changes to a glossy, dark green when mature.

Planting Notes:
Transplant small size trees. Tolerates soils ranging from light sand to heavy and compact silt and clay. Tolerates a wide range of moisture conditions. Tolerates salt spray. Requires large area for branches and roots to spread.

Care:
Prune when young to establish main branches. Maintain adequate soil conditions.

Problems:
No serious pest or disease problems. Gall insect is more unsightly than damaging. Susceptible to root rot in coastal areas.

www.richmondhill-ga.gov/parks

The city of Richmond Hill is pleased to announce the newest online service for the community. The Richmond Hill Parks Department is now online for residents. The city has developed the Urban Conservation Program, a public awareness campaign, intended to share their conservation and preservation values with the community - young and old. The website highlights the benefits of local tree cover, preserving nature, creating awareness of the local natural assets, and maintaining the community’s urban forestry.

Funds for this project were provided by the Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program administered by the Georgia Forestry Commission.

For more information about this program & other conservation initiatives call city hall at (912) 756-2317

